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# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AmConGen, Lagos, Nigeria
DESP. NO. 36
DATE: August 12, 1952

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - July 28 - August 9, 1952

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## POLITICAL

### Minister of Commerce and Industries Returns from UK

Hon. A. C. NWAPA returned from UK with many expressions indicating belief Nigeria in good economic bargaining position in Commonwealth; reiterated statement local consumers would not be made bear burden general Commonwealth dollar gap and high prices UK goods. Minister chastised Nigerians in UK for lack of respect his high position; bringing reply that he saw only pro-NCNC Nigerians on visit and not entitled respect. Pronouncements to date show more political interest than economic.

### Western House of Chiefs Endorses House of Assembly Acts

Chiefs approved measures and policy papers for Western Region recently passed elected legislature. Debates by chiefs much hotter than in Assembly due absence sharp party lines. Opposition to AWOLOWO's Local Government Bill very spirited, as expected but opponents too weak force disapproval. Matters approved these two Houses now await approval Governor and H. M. Government.

### "Enemies of Nigerian Freedom" Listed in Press

Nigerian Tribune and Daily Service, Action Group press, published list officers upon whom they have vented wrath. List of "enemies" included two Residents, one District Officer and Commissioner of Colony. Individuals target of nasty attacks for past several months.

### Eight Soldiers Sentenced for May Riot

Court martials African soldiers arrested (31) for May 19, 1952 riot at local Command Workshop over living quarters assignments now sitting. Eight sentenced so far. Sentences range 6 months to 3 years hard labor and separation from RWAFF with "ignominy." No strong press or local reaction yet.

RWRoss/LDJunior/hgz
REPORTER

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House of Representatives to Sit from August 14th

First General Session House of Representatives scheduled begin August 14th in Lagos. Indications of important and substantial proposals to be submitted; i.e. Financial Secretary alone says he to submit nine motions and three bills.

Financial Secretary HIMSWORTH to Malaya

Eric Himsworth, Financial Secretary to Nigerian Government, transferred to Federation of Malaya. Probably leave end of September, ending Nigerian tour which began in 1949.

ECONOMIC

Nigerian Cocoa to New Zealand

Cocoa Marketing Board proudly announces sale of 1000 long tons local cocoa to New Zealand--first sale to that country. Cocoa was especially graded and packed and of fancy grade.

Western Regional Production Development Board Accused

NCNC press has accused Board of granting loans to 49,500 to Action Group supporters for non-development uses. Lists names and uses to buttress charges. Perusal of report of Western Region's Finance Committee for House of Assembly seems justify charges. Control of Board by Awolowo's Action Group makes such action very simple of execution.

Robert W. Ross

Robert W. Ross
Vice Consul

AUG 26 1952

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